Dear KIPP Memphis Families,

Our yard signs around North Memphis say it all, “We Miss You!” We can’t wait to be back in community with our students and families.

I’m writing today to share an update on our Back-to-School plan for KIPP: Memphis Schools. Here are the basics of what we’re planning for our KIPPsters:

- Even in the wake of change and uncertainty, we are committed to maintaining high academic expectations for all of our KIPPsters.
- Families will be asked to choose from two options to attend school in the fall:
  - Option 1: 100% virtual learning
  - Option 2: Monday through Thursday in person learning / Friday virtual learning
- For families that choose in-person instruction, our buildings and procedures will be set up to ensure we are following proper social distancing and safety guidelines. This includes spacing out desks, wearing masks, and regular temperature checks.
- For all families, we’ll be doing our best to provide you with the technology and internet access that you need to make sure your students can participate fully.
- We’re also working on providing all of our students with access to social, emotional, and mental health support. We know these past few months have been difficult for our young ones and we see supporting them as whole people as an important part of our job.
- Our timeline for implementing this plan is as follows:
  - July 24th: Families choose their schooling option for the 2020-21 school year (there will be periodic opportunities to change your selection throughout the year).
  - From August 3-7: We will be distributing technology and internet access to families and providing training on the virtual learning platforms we’ll be using.
  - August 10-28: Online instruction begins August 10th and all students will be virtual through August 28th. We’ll use this time to build routines, expectations, and relationships among students and staff in preparation for the school year ahead.
  - August 31 (tentative): In-person school begins for those who selected that option following CDC guidelines for social distancing and safety. This date matches the current proposal for Shelby County Schools start date. If SCS pushes their date back, we will follow that as well.

If you have any questions about this or any concerns you’d like to discuss, your school team is ready to help or you can follow up with our Managing Director of Schools, Ms. Gretchen Leavy or me, Dr. Kendra Ferguson. Someone from our school team will be reaching out over the next two weeks to learn more about which options you’re choosing and how they can best support you.

This year is going to look different than any we’ve ever experienced; and it’s a huge opportunity to reshape our North Memphis KIPP community and as we prepare our students for a bright future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kendra Ferguson